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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4339
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 KABUL 004182

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SRAP, SCA/FO, SCA/A, EUR/RPM, INR/B
STATE PASS USAID FOR ASIA/SCAA
USFOR-A FOR POLAD

EO 12958 DECL: 12/19/2019
TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF
SUBJECT: PERVERSIVE CORRUPTION UNDERMINING GHAZNI PROVINCE'S
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
REF: A. (A) KABUL 4088 B. (B) KABUL 2807

Classified By: Interagency Provincial Affairs Coordinator Scott Kilner for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

1.(C) SUMMARY: In recent weeks Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) leadership engaged Afghan provincial and district government officials
GOVERNMENT AS CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE?

12. (C) In recent weeks the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) engaged extensively with provincial and district-level government officials
THE GHAZNI ARBAKAI

13. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX informed us that Governor Usmani and some district governors embezzled funds intended to pay local Afghan "Arbakai" security
KABUL 00004182 002 OF 004

MISAPPROPRIATING REFUGEE LAND

14. (C) According to both XXXXXXXXXXXX, Afghan government officials appropriated land in 2005 outside Ghazni to create a "returnee village," with
THE WHEAT HEIST

15. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, senior government officials have long corrupted the World Food Program's (WFP) emergency wheat shipments and
16. (C) Former Zanakhan District Governor Mohammed Hassan was arrested attempting to sell a shipment and released on order from the governor. (C)
CHROMITE SMUGGLING TO PAKISTAN, CONTRACTOR SHAKE-DOWNS, PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

17. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, Governor Usmani has long been running a chromite smuggling operation into Pakistan from mines in Zanakhan District

18. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX informed Task Force representatives that Governor Usmani and RRD Director Mayel extort bribes and kickbacks from local businesses

19. (C) Most credible interlocutors also assert that Governor Usmani and his accomplices in GIROA routinely embezzle government funds and interfere with
COMMENT

10. (C) It is difficult to imagine sustainable gains in security, governance, and development agendas without addressing the pervasive corruption

11. (C) On their own, dismayed provincial law enforcement and judicial institutions are clearly unwilling and incapable of dealing with the security

12. (C) While public corruption in Ghazni appears pervasive in scope, it lacks significant complexity; much is considered an open secret. Consider